THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Bringing of common user items on Rate Contracts is a continuous process and the number of such items does not remain constant. As on 27-7-93 there were 224 number of items for which Rate Contracts were valid and there were another 53 items for which rate contracts were not valid.

(c) While every effort is made to finalise R/Cs in time, delays at times are unavoidable due to several reasons, some of which are decontrol of prices of essential raw materials, changes in duty structure, litigation, lack of drawals etc.

(d) The Government had reviewed the working of the DGS&D at the time of deciding on decentralisation of certain purchase functions which have been transferred to other Ministries/Departments. Some of the important steps which have been taken in the recent past are:

(i) Close monitoring of R/Cs with a view to avoid any delay in finalisation of Rate Contracts;

(ii) Creation of a separate cell in the DGS&D to exclusively cater to the procurement needs of various projects assisted by World Bank/International Agencies.

(iii) Giving necessary thrust and impetus for procurement of more sophisticated and high tech. items and cutting down on procurement of traditional items.

(iv) Extending computerisation to cover essential functions/activities.

Production and Export of Earl Grey Tea

535. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and sale of Earl Grey Tea produced by the Tea Trading Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of Earl Grey Tea exported during the same period;

(c) whether the TTCI has entered into any agreement with the Twinings company of U. K. which produces the Earl Grey Tea; and

(d) what are the herbs with which Indian Tea is blended in order to produce the Earl Grey Tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Total Quantities of tea with Earl Grey flavour produced and exported by TTCI during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Quantity (in Kgs.)
1990-91	79.68
1991-92	18.00
1992-93	Nil

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Earl Grey is a flavouring agent which is reportedly sprayed on tea under certain predetermined conditions. No herb as such is reportedly blended with tea to make it Earl Grey Tea.

Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

536. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present set up of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics;

(b) whether the Statistics collected by the Directorate is made available to the Members of Parliament;

(c) what are the publications of this Directorate; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure incurred on this Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, a subordinate office of Ministry of Commerce, is the primary agency of the Government for collection, compilation, processing and dissemina-

tion of Foreign Trade Statistics of India. The Directorate comprises three main Divisions namely, Statistics wing, Electronic Data Processing wing and Commercial Intelligence wing.

(b) The publications entitled 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India' (Vol. I & II) and 'Statistics of Foreign Trade of India by Countries' (Vol. I & II) containing detailed statistics of India's a exports and imports are supplied to the Lok Sabha Library for reference by Members of Parliament.

(c) The Publications of the Directorate are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(d) The annual expenditure incurred on this Directorate during 1992-93 amounted to Rs. 320,29,977.

Statement
List of D. G. C. I & S' Publications

Sl. No.	Name of the Publication
1.	Indian Trade Journal
2.	Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries)
3.	Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India (Vol. I & Vol. II)
4.	Statistics of Foreign Trade of India by Countries (Vol. I & Vol. II)
5.	Statistics of Customs & Excise Revenue Collection of India
6.	Statistics of Foreign & Coastal Cargo Movements of India
7.	Statistics of Indian Coasting Trade Consingments of India
8.	Inter-State Movements/Flows of goods by Rail, River and Air
9.	Selected Statistics of Foreign Trade of India
10.	Directory of Indian Exporters
11.	Indian Trade Classification (Based on Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System).

Views of FIEO on Indo-South African Trade Relations

537. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th May, 1993 to the effect that Federation of Indian Export Organisation views South Africa as an emerging major business partner of India once the trade relations between the two countries are normalised;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the estimated amount of business likely to be done by India with South Africa if such a trading block is formed on acceptance of the views expressed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has allowed visits of trade delegations from India to South Africa and *vice-versa* for market survey, market identification etc. Government has also allowed export to South Africa of a few selected items of religio-cultural interest to the Indian ethnic community in South Africa. These items are (i) Indian films, (ii) Indian music records/audio and video cassettes/compact discs, (iii) Gangajal, (iv) All types of Kumkum including Kumkum bindies, and (v) Sindoor.

EXIM Bank of India, has prepared a detailed report on the Indo-South African trade potential.

Besides this, the Private persons and organisations in India and South Africa have been allowed to participate in the International Trade Fair in each other's country by setting up information booths only.

(c) Presently, trade between India and South Africa is banned. It is difficult to say when the ban would be lifted as also the volume of trade that would be generated therefrom.

Task Force for Implementing Liberalised Economic Policies

538. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently set